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ABSTRACT

This lesson plan focuses on China's Silk Road (300 B.C.-1300 A.D.), specifically the exchange of goods and ideas along its route. The lesson consists of four activities: (1) "Geography"; (2) "Matrix"; (3) "Advertisement"; and (4) "Oral Presentation." The lesson presents goals, provides background, and outlines the context of the lesson. It cites standards, suggests the scope of lessons in the unit, and lists materials needed. The activities are set forth step-by-step for the teacher to implement, and homework and assessment measures are suggested. (BT)

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Goals and Background	Context of Unit	Activity 1: Geography	Activity 2: Matrix
Activity 3: Advertisement	Activity 4: Oral Presentation	Homework	Assessment

Goal of Lesson: To show that the Silk Road was a means of transmitting ideas and inventions to other cultures.

Students will be able to:

- Map the Silk Road and major geographic features on a blank map of China
- Create a matrix comparing the exchange of major Chinese and European inventions along the Silk Road
- Create an advertisement illustrating major Chinese and European inventions used in both cultures and in daily lives today
- Orally present their advertisement and answer questions for the advertisement.

Skills taught:

- Reading comprehension
- Critical thinking (analysis and interpretation)
- Mapping
- Creating a new piece of information from other information
- Writing (analysis and explanation)
- Oral presentation

Standards addressed:

7.3.1	**Describe the reunification of China under the Tang Dynasty and reasons for the spread of Buddhism in Tang China, Korea, and Japan**
7.3.2.	**Trace the historic influence of such discoveries as tea, the manufacture of paper, wood-block printing, the compass, and gunpowder.**
7.3.5	**Describe agricultural, technological, and commercial developments during the Tang and Sung periods.**

Previous units taught may include:

- Rome
- Middle Ages in Europe
- Renaissance and Reformation
- Scientific Revolution
- Islam
- Africa

Scope of Lessons in this Unit:

- Geography of China
- Ancient Dynasties
- Major achievements
- The Great Wall
- Information of the Silk Road (Lecture & Background information)
- **THIS LESSON**
- Outside influences on Chinese culture (especially fall of the Silk Road)
- Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism
- Transition lesson on China to Japan

Materials Needed:

- Blank Map of China/Middle East and map instructions
- Houghton Mifflin's *Across the Centuries* text
- Colored pencils
- Black pen
- Matrix and transparency of Matrix
- Overhead projector and pens
- Supplementary readings on Silk road
- Chart paper
- Markers/Art supplies

LESSON

Anticipatory set: Students will choose one invention from a list and respond to the following prompts.

How is this invention important today?
How has this invention affected your life?

Activity 1: Geography of the Silk Road

In mixed ability pairs, using a blank map and their textbook, students will create a full color map containing:

- The route of the Silk Road
- Major geographical features along the Silk Road
- Major cities along the Silk Road

Activity 2:Matrix)

- Students will be assigned one invention that was exchanged along the Silk Road. In groups of three, looking at pages 206-207 in the *Across the Centuries* textbook (Houghton Mifflin, 1999) and on the handouts, students will find the information for their assigned invention and complete matrix for their invention.

Included in textbook:
100, Use of writing paper (European writing paper - 900, from Cairo)
200, Fishing reel (European fishing reel-1650)
400, Rudder (European rudder -c.1300)
577, Matches (European matches -1500s)
c8th century, paper money developed (European bank note issued - 1658)
976, Bicycle-type chain drive (European bicycle-type chain drive - 1770)
1041-1048, Movable type (European movable type -- 1450)

- Discussion/Debrief Matrix Contents: Students will respond to the following prompts:

Compare/Contrast the dates of Chinese inventions and their use in Europe
Why do you think that it took so long for Chinese inventions to reach Europe? (Hint: use your map.)

Activity 3:Advertisements

Groups will work to create an advertisement for their asigned invention to present to the rest of the class. Ads must answer the following questions: *How do you market your product to different cultures? What about today?*

Ads must include:

- Name of invention
- Purpose or uses
- Picture/drawing of invention
- Fully colored
- 8-10 sentences on back of poster about the significance of the invention both to Chinese and European society and to the modern world today
- Catchy slogan or jingle
- Fill up the entire paper given to you
- Oral presentation

Activity 4: Oral Presentation of Activities 2 and 3

Groups will present the information they have gathered on their invention to the rest of the class, and fill in the information on an overhead transparency of the matrix. During the presentations, students will complete the information on their matrices for each invention.

Discussion/Debrief Advertisements and Matrix Contents: After each presentation, class will have 3 minutes to ask presenters questions to ensure the matrix contents are correct and understood.

Homework: Silk Road 2000

- Go home and look at your surroundings. What inventions that we studied today do you still use in your everyday life? Make a list, and tell how your life would be different if each invention was not available today.
- Students will respond to the following in writing:
  The Silk Road fell out of use 500 years ago. Is there still a Silk Road today?

Assessment for this lesson:

- Authentic Assessment used: completed map, matrix, advertisement poster, presentations, and CFU (check for understanding) throughout the lesson
- Formal Assessment used: short quiz the next day (10 sentences with a work bank)

Ideas Shared Along the Silk Road: 300BC-1300AD

Ideas/Inventions shared with the West				Ideas/Inventions shared with the East		
Invention/Idea	Purpose	Symbol		Invention	Purpose	Symbol
Silk				Bronze Weapons		
Paper				Ceramics		
Gun Powder				Horses		
Tea				Furs		
Compass				Perfumes		
Block Printing				Glass		
Buddhism				Christianity & Islam		

Sell Your Wares!

You are a merchant wishing to sell your products along the Silk Road. Hoping to reach more people and increase your sales, you realize that advertising your product is the way to fortune.

In this activity you will design and create an advertisement for the product that you are selling. To make the best ad possible and make the most money, keep the following in mind:

- What is the most creative way that you can get your message across?
- Who is your audience? Are you selling to people of the East or West?
- Make your advertisement colorful
- Include the best selling points of your product- WHY would people want to buy your product?

Assignment requirements
Your advertisement will be assessed on the following:

- Full color illustrations, with no pencil showing
- Legible writing
- Creative slogan to advertise your product
- Use the whole page
- The name of the invention is included in your advertisement

On the back of your advertisement, write a paragraph (8-10 sentences) that discusses:

- Importance of your invention
- How it's used today
- Why you chose to advertise it the way you did